



CDR ERIC HANKS

COMMANDING OFFICER



CMDCM GARY SMEDLEY

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF



CDR JON SPORE

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On-station - Vol. 2 – August 2014



"Follow Me on Facebook" <https://www.facebook.com/Patrol-Squadron-FOUR-VP-4/193652304525>

VP-4 Ombudsman Link: <https://www.facebook.com/VP4Ombudsman>

Squadron Website Link: http://www.vp4.navy.mil/patrol_squadron_four09.htm



CO'S CORNER



Skinny Dragon Ohana,

I cannot express how great the members of VP-4 are executing our mission while forward deployed! Our maintenance professionals, ground support experts and combat air crews continue to perform to their fullest and are getting the mission done! Their efforts make me proud and honored to have been given the opportunity to lead these fine men and women. I deeply appreciate the support we have been given, and know that without it, we would not be successful in our objectives. I personally would like to thank the spouses, families and loved ones for your devotion and resilience during this deployment. Enjoy this latest newsletter, and remember that if you have any questions or concerns

contact our two great Ombudsmen by email (skinnydragonombudsman@gmail.com) or by phone: Rebecca Mitchem (904-525-2313) and Ashley Flynn (618-365-0614). Each week we invite family and friends to check the Squadron's Facebook page for "Photo Fridays". The photos encompass daily life, and special occasions at each of the detachment sites.

Ciao,
Skipper Hanks

SIGONELLA DIRECT

Skinny Dragons continue to set the tone in Sigonella. With countless hours spent working the past two months, it was time to take a step back and relax. On the evening of August 27th, the Command Services Department set up a BBQ for the Skinny Dragons at the pool on base! It was a beautiful afternoon for grilling and everyone was able to satisfy their appetite with burgers and hotdogs. After the BBQ and giving their stomachs the full thirty minutes of rest, the pool was open to the Sailors to kick back, take a dip and do some diving. It was a great way to reward the Sailors and give them a little time

away from the work environment. Our ground support professionals have been challenged with complex and labor intensive maintenance and have gone above and beyond to ensure our aircraft are ready to go. Two months through deployment and everyone continues to work hard to ensure we are 100% mission capable at all times. With an outbreak of current events on this side of the world, the Skinny Dragons continue to accomplish every mission ensuring we keep everyone safe on the home front!



DJIBOUTI DIRECT

The heat of August has come to Djibouti. With strong winds coming from the desert, the dust in the air has increased creating a beautiful sunset as the dust provides a hazy filter over the sun. Lately thunderstorms have also been on the rise. It is indescribable to watch a storm with all its wonder in a place so dry. Naturally, the old song verse about the “rains down in Africa” from Toto’s “Africa” is a common thought among many. The heat is a constant challenge for our maintenance professionals. However, these tireless

workers are well taken care of by our outstanding maintenance leaders, Chief Pras and Chief Morales. Safety is always our number one goal and with the guidance and years of wisdom with these two in control, our aircraft are fixed in record time and more importantly in a safety conscious manner. Special thanks on behalf of the Skinny Dragon leadership goes out to AM1 Richmond, AM2 Lovejoy, AM2 Octaviano, AM2 Mele, and AM3 Havea for spending many hours troubleshooting and adjusting the wing flaps of a P-3 in order to return it to a mission ready status. Thank you for your unending efforts, vast systems knowledge, and positive attitudes working in the hottest month of the year!



SOUDA DIRECT

Combat aircrew Ten and Seven continue to hold down the fort in Souda Bay, Crete. Four combat aircrews have rotated to Souda and a few more will have the opportunity. The mission optempo continues to progress. With only thirty maintenance professionals, they have been working tirelessly to keep the aircraft mission ready! AO3 Myers was instrumental in the establishment of the detachment, by leading the conversion of new facilities into the maintenance control and operations work spaces. She has gone above and beyond what was required in her task. AT3 Forrester volunteered and has been given special access to photograph the everyday efforts of our squadron so we can continue to keep you up to date on mission success. Bravo Zulu for your efforts, and keep up the good work! Our Souda team is excelling in all areas! Our mission readiness is at an all-time high and we continue to overcome any challenges encountered during this deployment.



JMSDF Deployment Air-Force for Counter Piracy Enforcement Sixteen Hosting in Djibouti

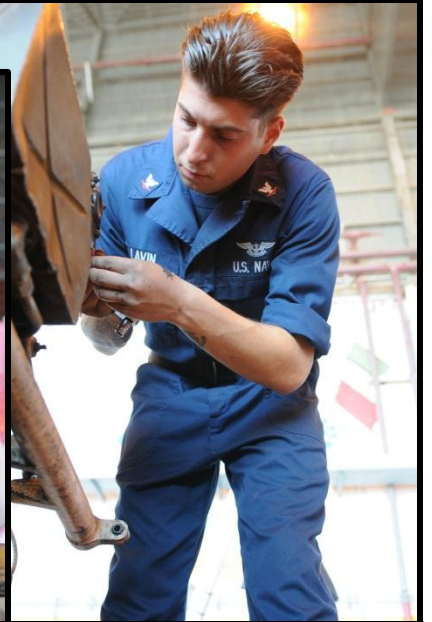
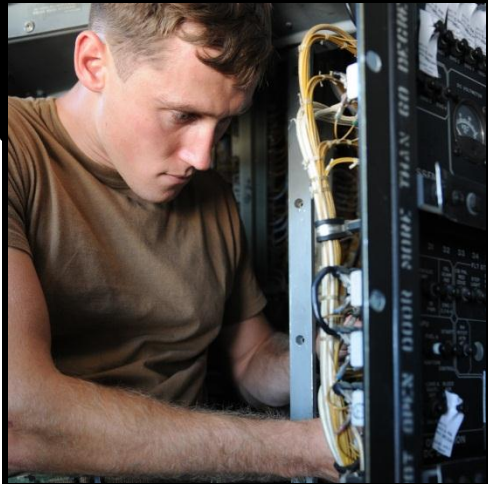
Recently we had the honor of hosting the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force DAPE Sixteen in Djibouti. They put on a cultural show where acts of music, martial arts, and modern Japanese pop culture were performed. Working unilaterally with coalition militaries not only builds a stronger report, but helps to ensure freedom of the seas. The Maintenance departments of both nations were able to share details on the facilities set up for our maintenance professionals, ground support experts and logistics. It was a great event and we plan to tour the Japanese facilities in the near future!



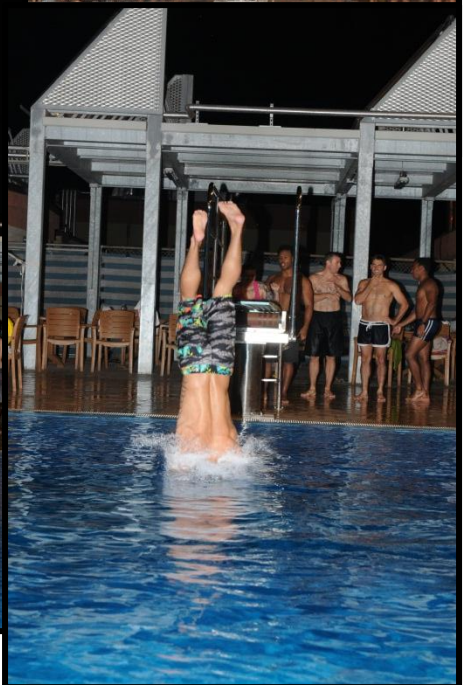
VP-4 IN ACTION











VP-4 FAMILY



Don't forget to submit photos monthly to see them published in the
Skinny Dragons On-station newsletter!!
Submit photos anytime at



<http://www.snapfish.com>

Username: Richard.daly@eu.navy.mil

Password: skinnydragon

SKINNY DRAGONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!



Navy Marine Corps Commendation
Medal

LCDR Meinert



Navy Marine Corps Achievement
Medal

LT Hasemeyer
LT Wilson
AWF2 Gomez
AT2 Johnson
AWO2 Minor
AWF2 Nguyen
AO2 Robertson
AWO2 Smith
IS2 Yazzie
IT3 Bolden



Flag Letter of Commendation

PR2 Huang
LS2 Le
LS2 Nelson



**Newly Qualified Enlisted Aviation
Warfare Specialists**

YN1 Grant
AWO2 Davila
AWO2 Dorpinghaus
AT2 Go
AWO2 Hayes
AT2 Sinor
AT2 Langston
AE2 Looney
AWV2 Stones
AT3 Bean
PS3 Delacruz
AE3 Juarez
AD3 Tabligan
AT3 Rollings
YNSA Ferris
YNSA Kirksey
AZAN Quiring
AMEAN Strazanac
AN Thomas



Newly Qualified Level 300/400

LT Dickson
LT O'Connor
LT Rueda
AWV2 Goehring
AWO2 McCarty
AWO2 McCrorey
AWO2 Umhoeffer

Newly Qualified CDI/QAR/CDQAR

CDI

AD1 Yambao
AM2 Henning
AD2 Hofman
AM2 Sposato
AE2 Looney
AD3 Lavin
AO3 Mayse
AT3 Palmer
AO3 Sifuentes

QAR

AD2 Miller

CDQAR

AT1 Engle
AT2 Heard
PR2 Huang
AT2 Johnson
AO2 Robertson
AWV2 Rogoff

